

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET ANALYST REPORT

Date Issued: October 24, 2006

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Rules Committee Agenda Date: October 25, 2006

Item Number: 2

Subject: Creation of a Grand Jury Implementation Committee

OVERVIEW

The City Attorney's Office has provided a proposal to the Committee on Rules, Open Government and Intergovernmental Relations to establish a Grand Jury Implementation Committee, which would assist the City of San Diego in implementing recommendations made by the County Grand Jury and accepted by the City.

FISCAL/POLICY DISCUSSION

There is no anticipated fiscal impact with this proposal, as the committee members will not be compensated. We do note that the board utilized by the County has required "minimal staff support" according to the Past Grand Jurors Association.

The IBA recognizes the need to increase accountability and transparency in the City, which should be enhanced through this measure. We do not advocate the general increase in bureaucracy in government. If this can be accomplished successfully through the current governmental structure, it should be done. However, if this measure is necessary or most effective in ensuring that the City implements agreed-to recommendations appropriately, it would be a valuable addition.

While under consideration, we also encourage the Committee to discuss the composition of the board as recommended. We suggest that all past Grand Jurors should be eligible for the board and the Committee may want to consider whether it would be valuable to have other full or ex-officio members such as a representative of the Taxpayer's Association or other advocacy group.

CONCLUSION

Although there is no fiscal impact for this proposal, the IBA supports the approval of this board only if the Committee finds that the creation of this new level of bureaucracy is necessary to most effectively implement Grand Jury recommendations the City has accepted. The IBA supports the expansion of membership on this committee to any person who has served on a Grand Jury as well as other citizens that may provide valuable input or oversight.

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